

**ATTACHMENT B. LETTER — FOREST CITY DEVELOPMENT RE: FORD POINT VISITOR CENTER**



April 2, 1999

Mr. Ray Murray  
Chief, Planning and Partnerships  
National Park Service  
Pacific Great Basis Support Office  
600 Harrison Street, #600 (PGSO-PP)  
San Francisco, CA 94107-1372

**RE: FORD POINT—RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA**

Dear Mr. Murray:

The purpose of this letter is to express our enthusiasm, as the City of Richmond's selected Master Developer of the above referenced building, to working with the National Park Service to include a Visitors Center in the renovation plan of this historic building.

We believe the integration of the history of the building and the story of the important role this area of Richmond played in the war is a natural match. As you know, our concept for the building has included a historic exhibit, and we believe your ideas would be most complimentary.

Please let us know what we may do to be of assistance in moving this project forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stanley V. Michota, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stanley V. Michota, Jr.  
Executive Vice President

cc: Tom Mitchell  
Susan Smartt  
Donna Graves

## ATTACHMENT C. RESOLUTION — CITY OF RICHMOND SUPPORTING A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

RESOLUTION NO. 129-99

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, EXPRESSING THE CITY'S SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFFILIATED AREA OR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO PROVIDE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE WWII HOME FRONT IN RICHMOND AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond takes pride in its history and seeks to share its rich past with residents and visitors to our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond played a pivotal role in FDR's "arsenal of democracy" -- U.S. production during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the WWII years shaped the City of Richmond more profoundly than any other period in its history; and

WHEREAS, the City is interested in establishing an Affiliated Area or National Historic Site in partnership with the National Park Service to provide interpretation and education about the WWII Home Front in Richmond and across the Country; and

WHEREAS, a National Park Service Affiliated Area or National Historic Site will draw national and international attention to the City of Richmond, and will provide economic and cultural benefits to the City residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City to explore the establishment of an historic preservation ordinance to protect Richmond's cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the City will cooperate with the National Park Service to maintain the Area or Site in a manner deserving of such stature, ensuring that there is public access and that all features are of appropriate design, in good condition and safe for public use; and

WHEREAS, the City will work with the National Park Service to study the feasibility of adding other sites to the Affiliated Area or National Historic Site, such as Kaiser Shipyard #3, Atchison Village, the original Kaiser Hospital, and WWII-era childcare centers and fire stations:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond hereby expresses its support for the establishment of an Affiliated Area or National Historic Site in partnership with the National Park Service, which will provide interpretation and education about the WWII Home Front in Richmond and across the Country. The Area or Site will include Marina Park with the Rosie the Riveter Memorial, Vincent Park, Westshore Park, the Ford Assembly Building and additional historic interpretation along the Marina Bay Esplanade from Sheridan Point Lookout to Shimada Friendship Park.

-----

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held  
July 27, 1999, by the following vote:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AYES:    | Councilmembers Butt, Evans, Marquez,<br>Anderson, Bates, Powers and Mayor<br>Corbin |
| VACANCY: | One   |

# Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front Feasibility Study

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Griffin

DIANE HOLMES, Interim  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

(SEAL)

Approved:

ROSEMARY M. CORBIN  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

MALCOLM HUNTER  
City Attorney

Certified as a True Copy

*Diane Holmes Interim*  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

C:\L\TWMB\rosienps r(july 13, 1999)

## Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front Feasibility Study

Printed on Recycled Paper

Office of  
ISIAH TURNER  
City Manager



February 4, 2000

John Reynolds, Regional Director  
National Park Service  
600 Harrison St, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94107

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

The City of Richmond is an enthusiastic partner in developing the proposed Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historic Site. This letter is to address three issues raised by NPS Chief of Planning and Partnerships, Ray Murray, regarding several components of the proposed site.

1. *Shipyard #3*: Councilman Tom Butt introduced a resolution to Richmond City Council on 2/1/2000 regarding City policy toward public access at Shipyard #3. The resolution, which we expect to be approved on February 8, 2000, directs that all future development and uses of Yard #3 will be planned and implemented in such a way as to accommodate continued preservation and provide public access and provide interpretative elements to this historic resource in a manner consistent with its use which is currently a working port facility.
2. *Red Oak Victory*: The City will commit to making a permanent berth available for the Red Oak Victory when and if the Richmond Museum of History completes its project of the ship's restoration. We agree that siting this important cultural resource in a prominent location within the national historic site will be an important component of the visitor's experience.
3. *Area Adjacent to Ford Building (FAB)*: As a new destination and entry point to the City of Richmond, we appreciate the importance of ensuring that visitors to the FAB, and the proposed Home Front Visitor-Educational Center within, are greeted by a surrounding

2600 Barrett Ave. P.O. Box 4046 Richmond California 94804

telephone: 510 620-6512

# Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front Feasibility Study

Letter to J. Reynolds  
February 4, 2000

Page 2

area of high quality design. Our partnership with Forest City, the FAB developer, includes redesign and landscaping of Sheridan Observation Point and the parking area nearby, and I am certain that we will be able to pursue this project in a manner that meets the NPS criteria for the design and maintenance of public open spaces.

I trust that the above commitments adequately address Mr. Murray's concerns. Please direct your response or other communications to myself or Redevelopment Director, David Thompson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isiah Turner', written in a cursive style.

Isiah Turner  
City Manager

cc: Rosemary M. Corbin, Mayor  
Members of the City Council  
David Thompson, Redevelopment Director  
Ray Murray, NPS Chief of Planning and Partnerships

## **ATTACHMENT D. FY 2001 BUDGET**

### **YEAR ONE BUDGET FOR ROSIE THE RIVETER/WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK — \$550,000**

**MAKING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (NHP) OPERATIONAL — \$440,000**

**SIGNAGE:** Provide matching funds to the City of Richmond to design, fabricate and install unifying signage for Rosie the Riveter / World War II NHP. \$55,000

**INTERPRETATION:** Prepare an interim Interpretation Strategy, to include distance learning capability through expanded webpages on Rosie the Riveter and World War II Home Front. Assess the information, artifacts, oral histories and audio-visual materials, archives and records assembled to date. Identify and fill in critical gaps to adequately interpret Rosie the Riveter and World War II Home Front, including accessioning key exhibit materials. Emphasis would be on audio recording additional oral histories to insure a fully representative cross-section of Home Front survivor personal stories to include all levels and ages of the varied industrial workforces, community service providers, merchants, and government officials.

Prepare an Interpretive Plan and begin Exhibit Design for a 7,000–9,000 sq. ft. Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front Visitor/Educational Center to be installed in donated space(s) in the craneway of the Ford Assembly Building which will be developed for adaptive reuse by Forest City Development Corporation in concert with the City of Richmond Redevelopment Agency. The Plan and Exhibit Design will also consider additional display and archive spaces which could make available to interpret these themes. The intent is to be able to have the Visitor/Educational Center operational when the adaptive reuse development is completed and the building is opened to the public in 2003. \$345,000 (Phase 1)

**ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE ON BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY:** Assist the City of Richmond, the Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project, the Richmond Museum of History, the Rosie the Riveter Trust, and other appropriate parties to determine the most appropriate permanent organizational framework to operate, staff, finance and maintain Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park, including the Visitor/Educational Center and possible sites to be added to the NHP. Establish archival and curation mechanisms. Develop tour and revenue generation strategies. \$40,000

**COMPLETE HISTORIC THEME FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTEXT OF ROSIE THE  
RIVETER/WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT — \$110,000**

Assess the inventory of other significant locations and their role in these themes. Conduct a reconnaissance of up to ten representative World War II Home Front sites and stories in the San Francisco Bay Area, West Coast and nationwide, that could be informationally integrated to and linked with the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front NHP. Conduct a historic resources assessment to confirm the integrity, significance and preservation, visitor access and interpretation options for other Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front-related sites and structures in the vicinity of the NHP to determine if they should be added to the NHP. \$110,000

## ATTACHMENT E. LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT FROM CREDENTIALLED HISTORIANS

BOSTON COLLEGE  
CHESTNUT HILL, MASSACHUSETTS 02167-3806

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
(617) 552-2267  
FAX (617) 552-2478

December 20, 1999

Mr. John Reynolds  
Western Regional Director  
National Park Service  
600 Harrison Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94107

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

I recently reviewed NPS materials relating to the proposed Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park. Having devoted much of my career as a historian to documenting the home front experience, I was delighted to see that the Park Service is considering establishing a site to commemorate and interpret this important era.

As I have argued in my book, *The Second Gold Rush*, the wartime mobilization had a widespread and dramatic impact on the nation's economic, social, and political life that endured well beyond 1945. As the federal government poured billions of dollars into defense mobilization and production, the American economy surged into action, ending the Great Depression in a matter of months. Equally important, however, was the mass migration of millions of Americans who relocated around burgeoning military and civilian defense centers. This vast reshuffling of the population was one of the most dramatic episodes in the history of American migration, rivaling the great waves of European immigration of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Having commemorated this earlier chapter of the nation's migration history at its remarkable Ellis Island site, the Park Service is now poised to develop and interpret a similarly compelling aspect of American social history in the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front Park. While there were more than a dozen urban areas that played critical roles in the defense effort, no place saw more economic activity, social disruption, and sheer wartime frenzy than the San Francisco Bay Area. As the nation's number one shipbuilding center and a key port of embarkation to the Pacific theatre, the Bay Area attracted more than half a million war migrants, many of them from the South and Midwest (including many women and African Americans). In the process, the area's population

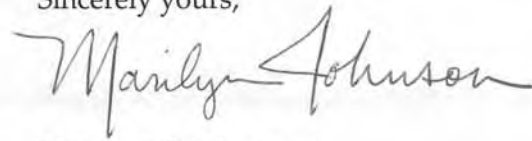
composition, urban environment, and social and cultural life was transformed. Nowhere was this more evident than in the East Bay community of Richmond, home of the Kaiser shipyards--the single largest shipbuilding complex in the nation. A sleepy town of 23,000 in 1940, Richmond experienced an industrial boom and population explosion that was among the most dramatic and traumatic in the country. With its population exceeding 100,000 in 1944, Richmond built some 23,000 units of temporary public housing--more than that built in the entire state of Michigan. Because of the critical labor shortage out west, Richmond and other West Coast shipyards employed the highest percentages of women and African-American workers anywhere in the country. Indeed, it is no coincidence that the award-winning documentary *Rosie the Riveter*, was assembled and produced in the East Bay where hundreds of former "Rosies" still reside to this day. The Bay Area shipyards also provided employment to hundreds of Mexican Americans, Native Americans, and Chinese Americans who eagerly responded to the opportunity to learn skilled trades while helping the war effort.

When I first decided to write my doctoral dissertation about the World War II home front, it quickly became clear that Richmond and the surrounding East Bay area was the ideal place to conduct a study. During the war, the *Washington Post* and *Fortune* magazine both cited Richmond as the quintessential war boom town. Federal records in San Francisco and Washington document the city's exceptional experience, and archival sources at the Bancroft Library at the nearby University of California at Berkeley provide a wealth of written and photographic evidence. Equally important, however, is World War II's role in transforming the western and southern regions of the United States. Although the war affected all regions of the country, its impact on the South and West was particularly profound and long lasting, laying the economic and social foundations of what we would later call the Sunbelt. In the Bay Area, for example, the development of today's Silicon Valley electronics industry can be traced back to the infusion of federal defense dollars and research activity that accompanied World War II and the Cold War. In cities in the East and Midwest, by contrast, defense mobilization marked a temporary boom phenomenon in an otherwise downward economic trajectory. For this reason, the growth-oriented saga of the Bay Area and other West Coast cities became the focus of my research.

As the draft feasibility study indicates, the Richmond area offers a wonderful array of human, institutional, and physical site resources for interpreting the home front experience. Transcripts and recordings from the Richmond oral history project--housed at the Bancroft Library--are a terrific resource that is being supplemented by oral histories conducted by the city's Rosie the Riveter Memorial Committee. As I found in writing my own book, oral interviews with former shipyard workers and residents--hundreds of whom still live in the area--are vital sources for interpreting home front history. It is essential, however, that this work begin immediately, as many of the informants are already in their seventies and eighties.

The creation of a Historic Park in Richmond would serve to commemorate not only the city's victorious role in the war effort but the high price it paid in doing so. The traumas and hardships Richmond faced as a result of rapid war mobilization and postwar readjustment have left a legacy of urban problems with which the community still struggles. The establishment of a Home Front Historic Park on the Richmond waterfront would be a fitting way for the federal government to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of a community that--as many put it in 1945--"won the Purple Heart."

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn S. Johnson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Marilyn" and last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Marilynn S. Johnson  
Associate Professor of History